

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) NSIC promotes exports from the SSI sector by helping SSI units with participation in exhibitions and also organising buyer-seller meets, exhibitions, etc. This constitutes one of the parameters for annual evaluation of NSIC's performance with reference to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government and NSIC.

(b) During 2005-06, as against the target of organising 22 events (10 exhibitions and 12 buyer-seller meets) for export promotion, 23 events (6 exhibitions and 17 buyer-seller meets) were organised by NSIC.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The following steps have been taken to improve the performance of NSIC.

- (i) Activities of NSIC have been reoriented and new/additional activities have been undertaken, with corresponding improvement in earnings.
- (ii) Steps have been taken to reduce, retrain and redeploy the existing manpower.
- (iii) Government has contributed Rs. 65 crore during Tenth Plan to the equity of NSIC to enable it to develop permanent facilities for promotion of marketing of SSI products. NSIC has initiated steps to utilise these funds accordingly.

As a result, NSIC has made a net profit of Rs. 1.25 crore at the end of 2005-06, after many years of large losses.

Encouragement to women entrepreneurs

1946. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging women entrepreneurs in the country particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details of schemes formulated and implemented by Government in this regard, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The following schemes are operated by the Government of India in the Ministry of Small Scale Industries for the entire country, to encourage women entrepreneurs:

- (i) Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD)
Scheme for economic empowerment of women through the development of their entrepreneurial skills in non-farm activities.
- (ii) Entrepreneurship Development Programmes.

The details of the two schemes are enclosed in the Statement (See below).

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is good response from women entrepreneurs to both the schemes.

Statement

Schemes implemented by Ministry of Small Scale Industries for encouragement to women entrepreneurs

- (i) Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD)
Scheme for economic empowerment of women through the development of their entrepreneurial skills in non-farm activities.

There are three components of this scheme:

- (i) Assistance in the form of Government of India (GoI) grant upto 30% of the total project cost is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for promoting entrepreneurship among women.
- (ii) Selected Training Institutions and NGOs can also avail of GoI grant upto Rs. 1 lakh per programme for imparting training to women entrepreneurs.
- (iii) Need-based GoI grant upto Rs. 5 lakh per project is provided to selected Entrepreneurship Development Institutions (EDIs) for field surveys, studies and designing of training modules for women entrepreneurs.

Progress under TREAD scheme
(2004-05 and 2005-06)

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Govt grant for training & or for capacity building	Loan sanctioned by banks for entrepreneurial activities	No. of women beneficiaries
1	Assam Total All	10.6	Nil 148.43	275
2	India	69.31		1785

(ii) Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs)

To train individuals (including women) in taking up self-employment and other economic activities, Minister of Small Scale Industries conducts Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) for duration of 4-6 weeks through its field level Institutions, viz., Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs), Regional Testing Centers (RTCs) and autonomous bodies.

Progress under EDPs

(2004-05 and 2005-06)

Sl. No.	State	No. of programmes conducted	No. of participants	No. of women participants
1	Assam Total All	70	1928	990
2	India	1417	37445	12284

Iron-Ore policy

1947. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry's proposal for a five year iron-ore policy framework to conserve resources to build up the domestic steel industry is pending for implementation for a quite long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and